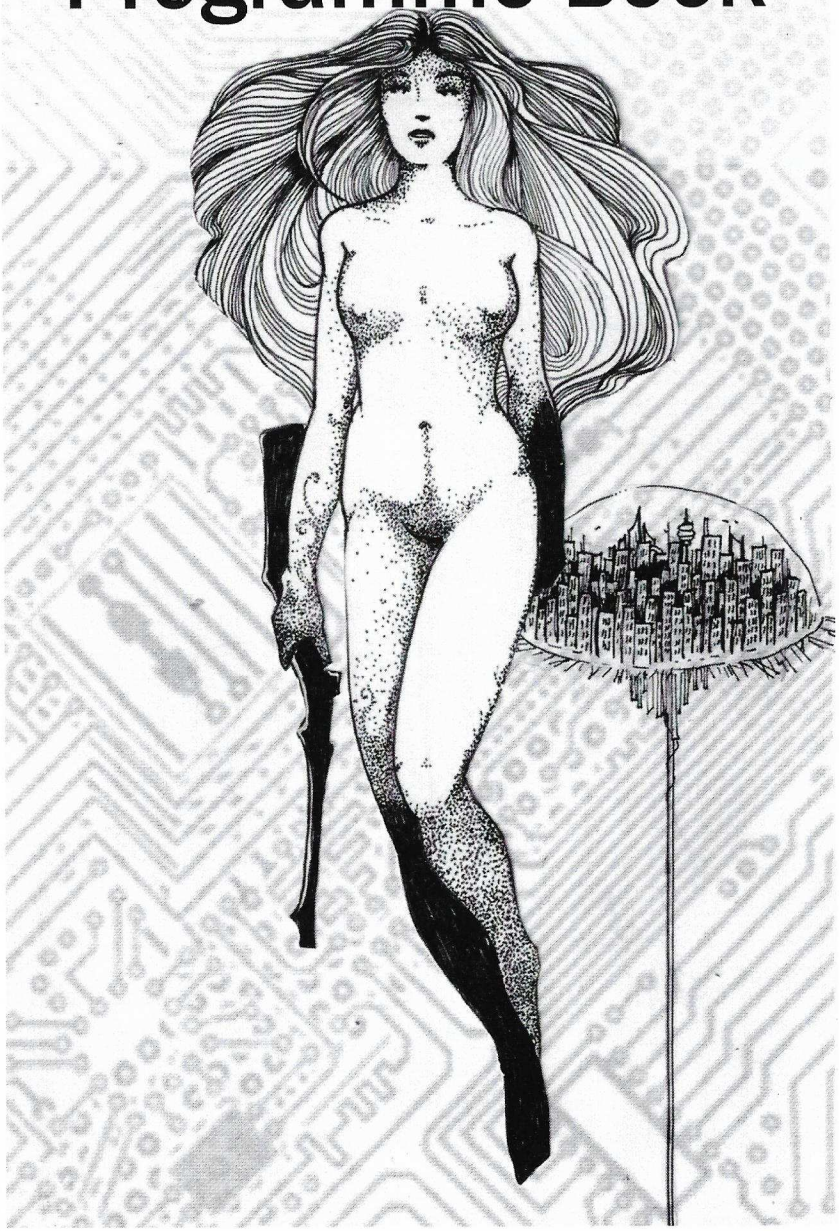
Novacon 42 Programme Book



The **Birmingham Science Fiction Group** was founded in 1971 to enable local and not so local fans to get together to discuss science fiction and related topics.

We meet on the second Friday of every month, 7:45pm at the Briar Rose Hotel on Bennett's Hill in Birmingham, just 5 minutes walk from New Street Station and handy for all bus routes. We usually start the evening with a guest speaker, often a professional in the field such as Brian Aldiss, Terry Pratchett or Peter Hamilton.

If you live anywhere in or around the West Midlands, the BSFG is the group for you! For further information, and a copy of our monthly newsletter, please:

Email: **bhamsfgroup@yahoo.co.uk**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: **www.birminghamsfgroup.org.uk**

Novacon 42

Guest of Honour: Jaine Fenn

9th - 11th November 2012

The Park Inn, Nottingham

Contents

The Thoughts of Chairman Berry	Tony Berry	4
Jaine Fenn is Rather Cool	Kari	5
Jaine Fenn: Changeling	Ian Whates	7
The Books of Jaine Fenn	Pauline Morgan	9
Downside Girls	Theresa Derwin	13
Jaine Fenn: Bibliography		15
The Programme	Yvonne Rowse & Dave Hicks	16
Novacon Art Show	Serena Culfeather	23
Adventures in Social Networking	Helena Bowles & Richard Standage	24
GCSFE Quiz	Vernon Brown	25
The Nova Awards	Steve Green	32
Past Nova Winners		33
The Nova Rules		36
My Friend Harry	Rog Peyton	39
Imagine, if you can, a young ...	Steve Lawson	40
Dave Cox	Helena Bowles	41
The History of Novacon		43
Membership List		48
Committee and Organisers		51

Acknowledgements

With thanks to Sue Mason for the cover. Kari, Ian Whates, Pauline Morgan, Theresa Derwin and Rog Peyton for their articles. Serena Culfeather for organising the artshow. Dave Lally for his programme stream. Vernon Brown for the GCSFE Quiz. Steve Green for administering the Nova Awards.

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The Thoughts of Chairman Berry

Tony Berry

Hello and welcome to Novacon 42. I'm going to assume that you are sitting in the bar diligently reading this, instead of sitting in a train nursing your sore head. Ahead of you is a lively weekend of friends, drink, panels, drink, parties, drink, conversation, food and drink.

Our Guest of Honour this weekend is Jaine Fenn, who some of you will remember from when she used to come to Novacon years ago as a fellow fan. Now, with several well-regarded novels to her name, it is a pleasure to invite her back in her role as Successful Skiffy Author. Will she have the Answer to Life, the Universe and Everything? OK, sorry, I had to get it in somehow....

This is where I thank my committee for all their hard work: Dave and Yvonne have put together a great Programme, Steve has kept track of you members, Eve has kept a tight grip on the finances (though she used to be a banker and wanted to get rid of our underperforming assets, but I said I'm not going.), John has done a sterling job with publications, Richard and Helena looked after our Twitter and Facebook accounts, and Cat tried to make sense of our committee-meeting ramblings. Thanks as well to all the other people who have helped out before and during the con; we can't do it without you.

Thanks to all of you for your continuing support of Novacon. It's a fannish institution, it's always there every year, but we do try and keep it fresh and interesting enough so that people keep coming back and new members join up. After all, it's you who really make the convention. Aah, group-hug. No I was kidding get away from me.

Jaine Fenn is Rather Cool

Kari

The first time I met her, she was elegantly dressed and posing with a pterodactyl. I was wrapped in aluminium foil. I was hot and sticky, and very impressed both by her poise and by the fact that she had managed to find a way to be quirky under hot lights without either indecency or heatstroke. But that is Jaine all over: rather cool. Over a succession of meetings at a succession of conventions, we bonded over a whole variety of things – motorbikes (where she was the coolest, riding her own, while I was a mere pillion), clothing (she can sew, I can't), role-playing games (she is the Demon Queen of LARP refereeing), weird films, music, books, and, of course, writing.

We both belonged to that underground tribe of writers who, obedient to Heinlein's precepts, write in secret, wash our hands afterwards and seldom speak of it in public. I don't remember exactly when I first discovered that Jaine wrote, but by the early 90s we could and did spend whole afternoons discussing plot issues, world-building, neat ideas and new ways to really put characters through the wringer, while her husband Dave and my partner Phil watched manga, drank beer and (possibly) commiserated with each other about the perils of living with writers.

Because, have no doubt of it, writing is a perilous art, and writers brave souls who will risk their all for the sake of their books. Most of us draw the line at death-defying experiences, garnering information second-hand, but Jaine is made of sterner stuff. She's travelled almost to the roof of the world, thrown herself from high places, risked hypothermia and suffocation in seas of mud, been publicly hypnotised and come within seconds of drowning, all in search of a better, deeper, truer story.

And it shows. There is a hard edge, a grit to her writing,

and a keenness of insight into character that is seldom found in the kind of widescreen space opera in which she specialises. Her imagination - and she has plenty - dazzles, but it's counterpointed by a strong streak of realism. In her worlds, life hurts: it can be cold, it can be hungry, it can be short, and there are no easy escapes, no comforting ideologies, no space marines just over the hill (and if there are, they aren't on your side). She does not let us retreat to the safe, comforting vision of a *Star Trek* future, where pain and division are all easily erased with the wave of a magical technological wand. Rather, she makes us face ourselves: our human greed, our jealousies and hierarchies, our fears and divisions and prejudices and the costs those exact. Successes are hard to achieve, rewards take work, and victories can be pyrrhic. But they are worth all the more for that, in the end. Her books - her worlds - are strange and resonant, harsh and beautiful, rich and fulfilling and not always easy.

And, like their author, rather cool.

Jaine Fenn: Changeling

Ian Whates

Jaine Fenn was deposited on an unsuspecting human family in middle England during the latter half of the last century. Superbly adapted to purpose, her changeling nature has remained undetected ever since, her physiology kept in balance by the frequent intake of carefully calculated levels of ethanol and the occasional inhalation of nicotine fumes. As with all her race, Jaine was born with a genetically programmed mastery of the sophisticated dance form known as K'klutz, whose intricate shapes and subtle nuances are often misinterpreted by uneducated human eye as disjointed anarchy on the dance floor.

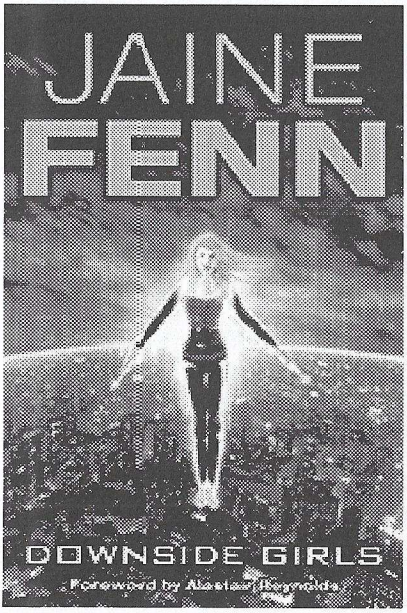
Having remained dormant throughout childhood, Jaine's extra-terrestrial nature first stirred in her teens, while she was attending the University of Hertfordshire. Here she studied Linguistics and Astronomy and encountered many strange things – not least her future husband, David. But it was not until adulthood that her true psyche fully blossomed, prompting Jaine to enter the world of IT in order to determine the precise level of our technical knowledge and development.

Jaine's presence on Earth is no accident. She is a gift, provided to the human race in order to prime the minds of a privileged few for the Next Big Step. Jaine has been charged with the sacred task of preparing us for Uplift and the impending invite to join the Great Galactic Gestalt. To this end, Jaine has steadily released snippets of the Essential Knowledge required for the process into the public domain. These data parcels have been cleverly woven into the text of her Hidden Empire books: a series of 'science fiction' novels that started with Principle of Angels (2008) and has continued through five volumes including Queen of Nowhere (due in 2013), all published via the

alien clearing house known as Gollancz (which means 'Bringer of Truth' in Jaine's native language).

The beating heart of this lore, however, is contained within a series of short stories set in the same milieu as the Hidden Empire novels. These stories have been released sporadically in a number of selected venues. Read in isolation, each piece is innocuous, but when they are read in concert, Enlightened Knowledge seeps from the text into the subconscious via a process of intellectual osmosis. The four component stories have now been gathered under one cover for the very first time in Downside Girls (published by Monico). Included in the book is "The Three Temptations of Larnia Mier", which Jaine dared not share with us before now, as it contains the vital trigger text needed to complete the Uplift process.

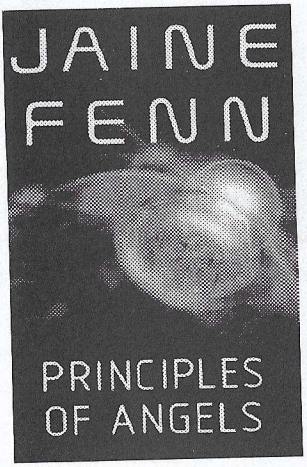
By odd coincidence, the paperback edition of Downside Girls will be launched at this year's Novacon. So, the question you have to ask yourself is... Do you wish to be enlightened?



The Books of Jaine Fenn: An Overview

Pauline Morgan

In 2008 Jaine Fenn metamorphosed from being a regular fan at many conventions to a fully fledged professional author. Her first novel, *Principles Of Angels,* introduced us to a highly imaginative SF world. Khesh is a floating city, one of several orbiting an inhospitable planet. Topside of the disc that forms the ground level of the city is pleasant, clean and a magical place to live in or visit. Tourists are common. Like most cities, though, there is a darker underbelly. In this case literally. Hanging below are a network of walkways, nets and platforms that form the equivalent of a shanty town. It is a place that the privileged never see but where residents eke out a meagre existence. Taro is a Downsider, at home in the mazeways.

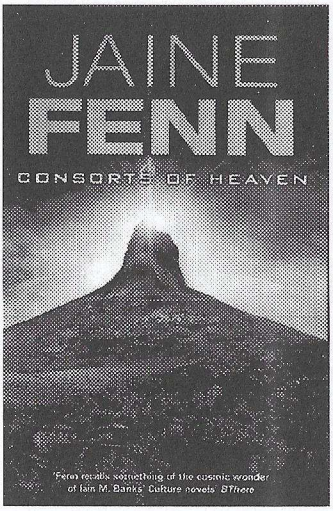


The Angels of the title are corporate assassins. It is their job to remove those that the government desires them to. It is legitimate; it is one of the things the tourists want to see. Nual is one of the City's Angels but her latest assignment is thwarted by a man that Taro recognises as the killer of Malia, another Angel and Taro's aunt. Elarn Reen is a singer, a visitor to Khesh City. She is also looking for Nual. The paths of these three become tangled together and as Taro discovers more about the universe he has been born in to so does the reader.

This series of books starts with a bang, firmly rooting it in the Science Fiction genre with an interestingly portrayed dichotomy of social mores with the focus being on the underclass. *Principles of Angels* brings together advanced technology and human

failings; legends of long dead races' treachery. It can be read as a stand alone volume but there is enough in it for a reader to want to know what else in going on in this universe.

The second volume in the series, *Consorts Of Heaven* (Gollancz 2009) has a totally different feel to it. Although set in the same universe for much of its length it reads like fantasy.

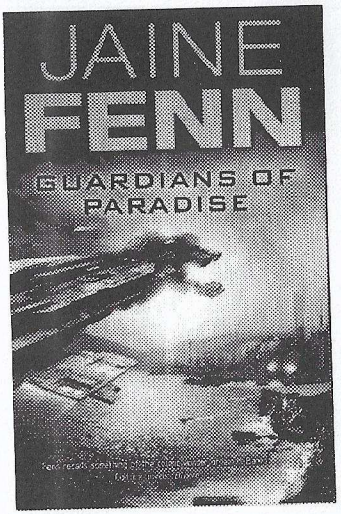


Kerin is a young widow who is tolerated in her village because of her skill with herbs. This is a village without modern amenities like electricity or plumbing. Her son, Damaru, gives all the appearances of being autistic but has a talent for telekinesis. Two factors are about to influence her life. The first is that Damaru finds a naked stranger in the marshes. This man, who Kerin names Sais, has lost all memory and in some ways, appears to be more of a simpleton than her son. The other significant event is that Damaru is to be sent down onto the plains to, hopefully, serve the Skymothers. These are portrayed as goddesses, so his selection is an honour. She and Sais join the caravan that is to take them from her remote mountain village to the City of Light.

The connections with the previous novel are slight and do not become apparent until late in the story. It does not have the complexity of *Principles of Angels* but sets up trains of events that are returned to later. By the end of the volume it is possible to see hints of the bigger picture which start to unfold in the third volume.

Guardians Of Paradise (Gollancz 2010) brings us back to some of the characters of *Principles of Angels*. By the start of the

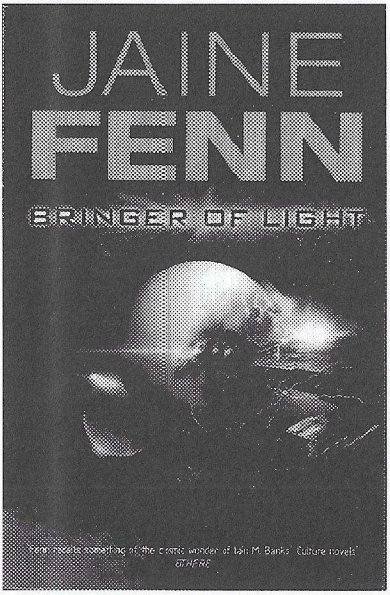
third novel we know that Nual is Sidhe. This race was thought to have been wiped out a long time ago, to the great relief of humanity as they are extremely manipulative and have the power to bend minds to their will. Nual is young, in Sidhe terms and was little more than a child when Jarek found her aboard a derelict Sidhe mother ship, the only sane survivor of some kind of disaster – she didn't know what. The Sidhe, however, want her either back in the fold or dead. They don't care which. They have already (in *Principles of Angels)* tried to use her friend and mentor as an assassin. Now they have sent a more blatant hit squad. Jarek, by coincidence, arrives just in time for the shoot out. Once they have escaped, Jarek tells Nual and Taro that he has discovered the source of the 'shift units' that take space craft between systems instantaneously. They are the rewired brains of boys with a kinetic talent, bred for that trait on Serenein, the planet in *Consorts of Heaven*. Despite the fact that it might eventually lead to the end of faster than light space travel, the three team up to find where these boys are processed and put a stop to their torture. If it also wipes out the Sidhe once and for all, they decide it is a price worth paying. This third volume is a more traditional space opera with a different kind of action and intrigue.



In *Bringer Of Light* (Gollancz 2011) Jaine begins to bring together strands that she has been developing over the first three volumes and continues the space opera feel. Although most of the female Sidhe are dead, the males are still around. A few are hidden in plain sight, keeping places like Khesh City afloat (see *Principles of Angels*) but most are secluded in a distant system, content to keep their heads down.

The plan is to persuade the male Sidhe to give them a beacon which they can set up near Serenein. This should connect the planet to the rest of civilisation and effectively bring a halt to the trade in psychically talented boys. Naturally, it isn't as easy as they anticipate especially as Khesh insists on sending an avatar with them to protect the location of the male Sidhe's domain. In the meantime, the people Jarek (they knew him as Sais) left running things on Serenein are having their own problems trying to keep the status quo long enough for Jarek to return.

The story does not stop here as these four books are the beginning of a proposed nine-book series. Jaine Fenn is excellent at developing convoluted plots with exciting action sequences. All her books so far have a different flavour which match the environment and situations that her characters find themselves in. A word of warning - to fully understand the nuances of the sequence it is better to start at the beginning and work outwards. Then you will appreciate the ride as a new universe filled with adventure and moral dilemmas opens before you.



Downside Girls

Reviewed by Theresa Derwin

Downside Girls is a collection of four short stories from Fenn's world, and to quote Alastair Reynold's introduction, "These are dangerous little fables, sleek and sharp as an Angel's retractable blades, and just as likely to cut when you least expect them to."

In the first story 'Collateral Damage', Malia, the Angel from Fenn's debut novel Principles of Angels, is sitting in a bar when she meets Vanna Agriet, a Topsider who spills a drink on Malia before spilling out her story to the willing Angel. You see, Vanna has found a woman's earring under her bed and suspects her husband of cheating on her. A peculiar friendship between the Topsider and the Angel begins.

There is a brilliant ironic twist at the end of this tale and as usual, Fenn has a distinctive and strong authorial voice, as she narrates this story in the first person. The dialogue and 'lingo' Fenn uses demonstrates the class distinction prevalent in these stories and the books.

In 'Death on Elsewhere Street' we meet Geal, a downside girl coerced by Angel Thiera to be a witness for a removal, whilst in 'Angel Dust' Isha is sent on a mission by an injured Angel to deliver a box to the Minister, and in 'The Three Temptations of Larnia Mier' we meet older music teacher Mier, who on witnessing a removal is injured and may not be able to sing again.

Each story is tightly written with a strong female presence and a stronger narrative voice. Each ending is wholly satisfying and as a book, the stories blend well together as an accompanying piece to Fenn's Angel novels.

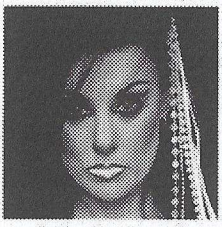
This is gritty, urban SF, which challenges the reader with every story. Simply an excellent collection.

EIGHT SQUARED CON

Eastercon 64 • Bradford • 29th March - 1st April 2013

Walter Jon Williams

Freda Warrington



Anne Sudworth

Edward James

The Sixty-Fourth

British National Science Fiction Convention

Cedar Court Hotel, Bradford

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Jaine Fenn – Bibliography

Novels

Principles of Angels (2008 Gollancz)
Consorts of Heaven (2009, Gollancz)
Guardians of Paradise (2010, Gollancz)
Bringer of Light (2011, Gollancz)
Queen of Nowhere (2012, Gollancz)

Short Story Collection

Downside Girls (2012 Clarion Publishing)

Short Stories

Raw Steak and Roses	Divas of Darkness (November 1999)
The Path to the Sun	On Spec and Would That It Were (January 2002)
The Chatterslee Circle	Fortean Bureau (July 2003)
Paying For Rain	Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine (August 2004)
Death on Elsewhere Street	Shadows of Saturn (April 2005)
Fear Not Heaven's Fire	Greatest Uncommon Denominator Magazine (June 2007) (www.gudmagazine.com/vault/1)
The Prettiest Star	Escape Velocity' (November 2007)
Collateral Damage	Subterfuge (October 2008)
High Ground	Sci-Phi (May 2009)
Angel Dust	Labyrinth Inhabitant (May 2009) (www.labyrinthinhabitant.com/?p=141)
A Mirror to Life	DayBreak (the 'Shine' anthology webzine) (May 2010) (daybreakmagazine.wordpress.com/2010/05/01/daybreak-fiction-a-mirror-to-life/)
King of Pain	Aoife's Kiss (March 2010)
Twilight at the Change House	End of an Aeon (July 2011)

The Programme

As always, the programme is subject to change but we're quietly confident the convention will look like this...

FRIDAY NIGHT

7.00 pm Opening Ceremony.
Some wackiness and possibly even zaniness. But not too much. Meet the Committee. Meet Jaine. Useful information about the rest of weekend will be given.

7.30 pm Thank Fandom It's Friday!
Steve Green (who else?) kicks off the convention with our GoH Jaine Fenn and some surprise guests, buses and lawyers permitting

9.00 pm Book Launch Party.
Jaine has new work out and we would like to celebrate our guest's success and socialise on the first night of the convention.

10.30 pm A False Sense Of Insecurity.
A discussion about conspiracy and paranoia in science fiction *and* fandom. Why are we so much more attracted to the idea of conspiracy then cock-up? Do aliens really walk among us? Are *you* a SMOF?
David Hicks, John Meaney, Jacey Bedford, Jim Mowatt.

SATURDAY

10.30am Road To The Stars (1957)
Made by Russian (then Soviet) producer & special effects wizard Pavel Klushantsev, it starts in documentary style with the life of Konstantin Tsiolkovsky, and goes on to dramatise early rocket experiments including Sputnik (1957, remember). The film ends with an imaginative section showing man expanding into space, building space stations and going on

to the Moon. Never available in English but Dave Hardy has obtained a German print, replacing the soundtrack with captions and specially written music by The Light Dreams (Alex Storer, who will be at his first Novacon!).

12.00 noon The Real Science Behind Parallel Universes.
Dr Tony Padilla from the Centre for Astronomy and Particle Physics at Nottingham University

1.30pm All In It Together
Everyone is talking about austerity at the moment. SF has a tendency to bright wealthy futures where worrying about paying the mortgage or having enough to eat at the end of the month is just not there. Of course there is the alternative SF meme of hell on earth dystopias. We ask where the austerity is in SF and whether there is any fictional work out there that helps us visualise a better future life in a world of limits (not a popular SF concept at all)?
Farah Mendlesohn, Mike Scott, Caroline Mullan, Phil Nanson.

3.00pm Guest Of Honour
Our Guest of Honour, Jaine Fenn interviewed by Pauline Morgan.

4.30pm Now That's What I Call Novacon 42
Possibly the best Novacon 42 item in the world. Ever! Music, laughter, Baraoke!
Brought to you by Ian Sorensen, Yvonne Rowse and a cast of tens (that's you, the audience). Questions will be answered, answers will be questioned, prizes will be awarded.

6.00pm SFAnd Fantasy? It's All Fantasy?
There are those that say that fantasy is rubbish and only SF is worth reading. There are those who say that SF is stupid, macho and sterile but fantasy gives us a glimpse into our souls. We wonder why some people are so partisan. We ask if it is possible to bring Tony Berry to admit that there is some fiction

SJ PARKINSON

"A mesmerizing streak through a galactic war that had me with the action at every step of the way."
Amazon 5-Star Review

"Those who like science fiction adventure are sure to like Predation. It is the best book of its type that I have read in many years."
Amazon 5-Star Review

"Predation is a great book and was the type of scifi adventure I enjoy reading."
Amazon 5-Star Review

"The combat is so vividly written that I was there in my mind and almost breathless on numerous occasions."
Amazon 5-Star Review

"The author has obvious military and aviation experience and crosses well from ground ops to aviation/space scenarios."
Amazon 5-Star Review

"Haven't enjoyed tech sf so much in a long time and Predation is definitely on my recommended reading list."
Amazon 5-Star Review

PREDATION

that is OK even if it doesn't have rockets in it.
Tony Berry, Claire Brialey, Edward James, Doug Spencer, Yvonne Rowse

7.30pm International Fans Of Mystery
GUFF is running, and nominations for TAFF open on the Friday of Novacon. What's the attraction of travelling to conventions on another continent? Fans who have been (or hope to be) transformed into more worthwhile human beings by the experience debate the coming fan fund races and why it's important to support them.
John Coxon, James Shields, Ang Roisin, Jim Mowatt & Nigel Rowe

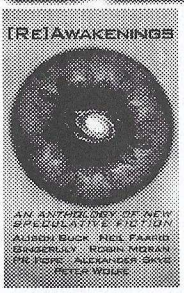
9.00pm Chemists, Brewers And Beer-doctors
Dr James Sumner from Manchester University asks: How do you know what's in your beer? Public fears and chemists' claims about adulteration and contamination in the nineteenth century. Can the people who detect poisons be trusted not to have a sideline in supplying them?

10.30pm The Good Old-fashioned, No Holds Barred, Undignified, Alcohol-sodden Novacon Game Show.

Imagine Strictly Come Dancing presented by Jeremy Paxman. On ice. And a fish in your ear might come in handy too.

SUNDAY

10.30 am Alan Turing.
2012 is the Turing Centenary and throughout the world events have celebrated his achievements. Dr James Sumner returns to the stage to talk about the life and work of Alan Turing.



New voices

New worlds

New approach

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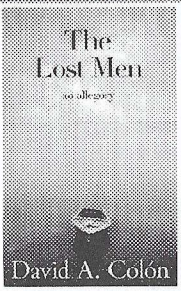

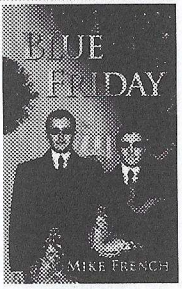

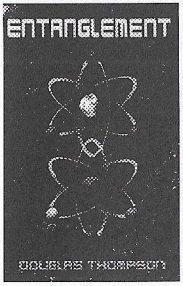

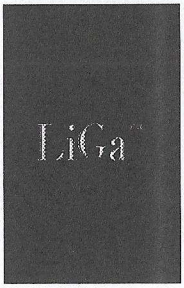

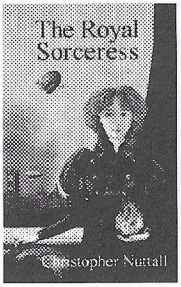

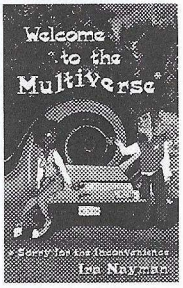

12.00 noon Art Auction
Forget gold, the real way to secure your fortune is science fiction art. Plus it looks good on the walls. If you're enjoyed the work in the Art Show, why not support the artists by buying some of their work?

1.30 pm In Her Image
How much control do authors have over the covers of their books? Are female authors of genre books guided to 'feminine' book covers and genre definitions? Do male authors have more choice?
Theresa Derwin, Janet Edwards, Dave Hicks, Dave Hardy

3.00 pm Short Fiction
As novels get bigger and bigger (Peter Hamilton's SF detective novel, Great North Road is a whopping 1100 pages) we ask is there still a place for short fiction. Do we still read it? Where do we get it from? Why should we search it out? What's your favourite short story?
Jaine Fenn, Mark Plummer, Julian Headlong, Christina Lake, Yvonne Rowse

5.00 pm Awards Ceremony
Not a 'closing' ceremony because Novacon *never closes*. Come and hear about the masterful plans for next year that are already being hatched. Come and say thank you to our Guest of Honour, Jaine Fenn, and all the people who made the convention run. Come and see the best run raffle in fandom.

7.00 pm Beer Tasting And Convention Meal
Remember to buy your tickets during the weekend.

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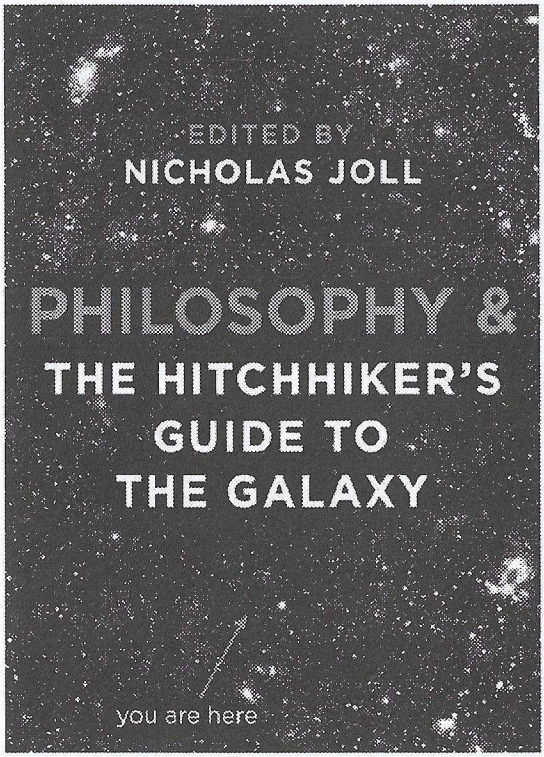

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NOVACON ART SHOW

How does it work?
What do I do?
Where is the art?

It's like E-bay but far more fun and there's a bar and Mr. Lally nearby; follow the signs to the basement floor

Each item has a bid sheet beside it with details of title, author & medium used

Unless the sheet is marked Not For Sale (NFS!) you can list a bid for it - mark your badge number, name or ID & a price

Many beers later.... Sunday morning....

All art items with a bid against them will be taken for auction

Your auctioneers are Rog Peyton & Chris Morgan assisted by ½r & his fabulous headgear

These items are auctioned in traditional auction style with persuasion, bribery & subterfuge

You don't HAVE to attend the auction but it's an entertaining experience

If you don't attend, your written bid might be overtaken

If your bid is successful, you will need to pay for & collect your art back in the art show room

You do this about ½ an hour after the auction finishes (in other words, give us time to get back & ready!!)

You can pay with CASH or a CHEQUE (there is a NatWest Cashpoint across the road!)

You will be given your chosen art piece to take home & love.

If in doubt – ask an Art Gopher –
they are very domesticated as gophers go

Adventures in Social Networking

or

Novacon gets dragged kicking and screaming into the 20th Century

(we're working on the 21st...)

Helena Bowles and Richard Standage

The more observant amongst you will have noticed that, over the grumps and complaints of some of the Committee, Novacon has gained both Facebook and Twitter accounts.

The Facebook page has been the most successful. Richard and I have managed to post something of interest to Fans most nights and up to ninety people each week have followed our posts. We've posted reviews, AMVs, trailers and fun stuff which we have advertised on Twitter.

We're working on our Twitter posts. We had grand plans for monthly Twinterviews with Jaine but sadly time, real life and lack of a smartphone interfered. We think we can do better!

From our stats we estimate that the number of Novacon attendees who were following and checking in on our posts probably represents the proportion of members who are active on Facebook and Twitter. We've also noticed some new names on the membership list - if you're new to Novacon, you're welcome indeed, and if you found us through online media we'd really like to hear from you.

We'd like feedback and suggestions for improving the use of social media from anyone.

General Certificate of Science Fiction Education (and Draw)

Vernon Brown

On the next few pages you will find a GCSE Question Paper. You should also find a loose A4 size Answer Sheet and an A4 Rough Work sheet – if not please contact Registration.

This is a multiple choice quiz. Each question has been given several answers, only one of which is correct. They are often abbreviated because giving them in full would make the correct answer too obvious. You must match your answer to one of the given ones. It's a bit like being given specifications for making a key, together with five different locks. If the key is made correctly it will fit one of the locks, if it's not, it won't.

INSTRUCTIONS

1/ There are three Sections to the Paper – Section B is easy, Section A is medium and Section C has harder questions. You have to submit two Sections which must include Section A. If you submit Sections A&B you will obtain an Ordinary Level GCSE Certificate if you pass, if you submit Sections A&C you will gain an Advanced Level GCSE Certificate if you pass. Pass mark is 40% and each Certificate is graded.

2/ Read each question, decide on your answer and match it to a given answer. Mark the corresponding square on the Rough Work sheet. When you have answered as many questions as possible decide whether you will submit Sections A&B or Sections A&C. If both Levels are submitted by one person only the Ordinary Level paper will be marked. Please submit your answers under your own name, precociousness is one thing,

giving a certificate or draw prize to an infant is another.

3/ Like the Rough Work sheet the Answer Paper has numbered and lettered squares that correspond to the questions and answers on the Question Paper, but only enough for one Level submission. Carefully BLOCK OUT with black or blue ink, ballpoint or felt tip the squares corresponding to your chosen answers. Do NOT circle, cross or otherwise mark the squares, or use pencil, because the marking system will be unable to cope with it and your paper will be rejected. If you make a mistake put a large X through the incorrect square.

4/ Similarly block out the squares corresponding to the LEVEL you are submitting ([O]* OR [A]*) AND the SECTION you have chosen ([O]* OR [A]*), otherwise they will be marked at "O" Level. PRINT your name and address legibly in the space provided - your answer paper will be returned to you with this part showing through the window of an envelope so the postal services must be able to read it if necessary.

5/ Post your Answer Paper in the GCSE box at Registration before 11.00 a.m. on SUNDAY, preferably earlier, but watch the GCSE posters for any alteration to this deadline. Please only fold it once on the arrowed line. All Answer Papers submitted will be entered into a free draw.

6/ I hope to be able to mark the papers and give certificates at NOVACON, if I can't, they will be posted to you. Ask me on Sunday afternoon what I will do. The draw prize will be given at the Closing Ceremony.

7/ Finally, Certificates will be given or sent directly to you, no one else will know how you have done unless you tell them. So please have a go, you may be better than you think.

SECTION A (MEDIUM)

1/ Which film was subtitled "Or: How I Learned To Stop Worrying And Love The Bomb"

a/ ABLE b/ BTE c/ DS d/ WOTW e/ WWT

2/ Where are the Sliding Doors in the film of the same name?

a/ Chemist b/ Hotel c/ Laboratory d/ Lift e/ Underground

3/ In which story does a survivor wearing a dead civil servants jacket begin reuniting the USA?

a/ CC b/ L c/ M d/ TP e/ WF

4/ How did "The First Men in the Moon" (HGW 1901) get there?

a/ Antigravity b/ Cannon c/ Comet d/ Explosion e/ Rocket

5/ The Turing Test tests for what?

a/ Age b/ Alien possession c/ Intelligence d/ Life e/ Parasites

6/ In which decade did the term 'Science Fiction' come into general use?

a/ 1880s b/ 1890s c/ 1900s d/ 1910s e/ 1920s

7/ In 1938 whose radio version of 'War of the Worlds' terrified many Americans?

a/ EH b/ HI c/ HO d/ LO e/ OW

8/ Who was the heroine of Fritz Lang's 'Metropolis'?

a/ A b/ F c/ M / T e/ Y

9/ 'Yarbles! Bolshy great yarblockos to thee and thine!' is a quote from which novel?

a/ AA b/ ACO c/ BOG d/ ST e/ TFW

10/ In the film "The day the Earth stood still" (1951) what was the name of the robot?

a/ Alela b/ Gort c/ Marvin d/ Robbie e/ Robinc

11/ From which short story was "2001 , A Space Odyssey" derived?

a/ Artifact b/ Evolution c/ Needle
d/ The Other Species e/ The Sentinel

12/ What/who is Susan Calvin?

a/ Artist b/ General c/ Roboticist d/ Scientist
e/ Time traveller

13/ The film "Forbidden Planet" is based on a work by whom?

a/ Einstein b/ Heyer c/ Shakespeare d/ Socrates
e/ Wells

14/ "When a day that you happen to know is a Wednesday starts off by sounding like a Sunday, there is something seriously wrong somewhere." is a quote from which novel?

a/ BTGH b/ BUH c/ IHH d/ TDOTT e/ TMS

15/ In "From The Earth To The Moon" (JV) what is the spaceship firing cannon called?

a/ A b/ C c/ E d/ G e/ I

16/ How many names has God?

a/ One million b/ Nine million c/ One billion
d/ Nine billion e/ One trillion

17/ What was Georges Melies (1861 - 1938)?

a/ Artist b/ Author c/ Film maker d/ Magazine editor

SECTION B (EASIER)

18/ Who organised the first NOVACON?

a/ ASFG b/ BSFG c/ LC d/ LSFG e/ OUSFG

19/ How many leagues under the sea did Jules Verne write about?

a/ 5,000 b/ 10,000 c/ 15,000 d/ 20,000 e/ 25,000

20/ In "The Hitchhikers Guide To The Galaxy" what is the name of the Paranoid Android?

a/ Deep Thought b/ Hal c/ Maria d/ Marvin e/ RUR

21/ Who are the Hugo Awards named after?

a/ HG b/ HGW c/ HT d/ JH e/ RAH

22/ Which alien wanted to phone home?

a/ BT b/ ET c/ Gort d/ Mork e/ No 5

23/ Name the subterranean 'humans' in 'The Time Machine' (HGW).

a/ Crevites b/ Eloi c/ Morlocks d/ Reats e/ Sothics

24/ In 'Back to the Future' (film) what form does the time machine take?

a/ Archway b/ Belt c/ Car d/ Chair e/ Radio

25/ Who wrote 'War of the Worlds'? (Novel)

a/ IA b/ HGW c/ JB d/ JV e/ WM

26/ What catastrophe lies behind Shute's novel "On the Beach"?

a/ Alien invasion b/ Atomic warfare c/ Climate change d/ Disease e/ Floods

27/ A triffid (Novel) is a(n) -

a/ Alien b/ Amphibian c/ Disease d/ Insect e/ Plant

28/ Which author propounded the "Three Laws of Robotics"?

a/ ACC b/ BA c/ HGW d/ IA e/ JV

29/ What is the name of the planet in Anne McCaffrey's "Dragon" series?

a/ Barsoom b/ Pellandra c/ Pern d/ Terra e/ Tycho

30/ What is the computers name in "2001 - A Space Odyssey" (Film 1968)?

a/ HAL9000 b/ IBX c/ James d/ K9 e/ Satan

31/ Farenheit 451 is said to be what?

a/ Rocketship b/ Paper ignition point c/ Perfume d/ Research facility e/ Space station

32/ "He loved Big Brother" is the last line of which novel?

a/ ACO b/ AF c/ AGDO d/ BNW e/ NEF

33/ What colour is Spock's blood?

a/ Black b/ Blue c/ Green d/ Red e/ Yellow

SECTION C (HARDER)

18/ In which 1940s novel does the hero find himself in an SF based world?

a/ FIY b/ HBP c/ JW d/ TATA e/ WMU

19/ What is the full title of the novel known as "Frankenstein"?

a/ BFAHC b/ FLIT c/ FOASR d/ FOTMP e/ TFM

20/ In "Metropolis" (film 1926) what destroys the workers homes?

a/ Fire b/ Floods c/ Hurricane d/ Subsidence e/ Warfare

21/ Who writes the Honor Harrington novels?

a/ DD b/ DW c/ GRD d/ HBP e/ SMS

22/ Atul, flar-ke, flar-ta, basiks are native to which planet?

a/ Caspak b/ Eran c/ Hydrot d/ Marduk e/ Nashua

23/ In which de Camp novel does a timetraveller use Arabic maths to establish himself in ancient Rome?

a/ ABF b/ ATDA c/ LDF d/ NRT e/ TRR

24/ From which language is the word 'Robot' derived?

a/ Czech b/ French c/ Polish d/ Russian e/ Swedish

25/ In which film does H G Wells pursue Jack the Ripper into modern times using a time machine?

a/ APTT b/ NTLTP c/ TAT d/ TTK e/ TTM

26/ In 'Quatermass and the Pit' at which Underground Station was a spaceship found?

a/ Burntwood b/ Devil's Bridge c/ Helstone Close d/ Hobb's End e/ Horns Lane

27/ Which book appeared originally in magazine form as "Under the Moons of Mars"?

a/ APOM b/ FMOM c/ SMOM d/ TMOM e/ TWOM

28/ In which film did John Cabal appear?

a/ A b/ FMITM c/ T d/ TIM e/ TTC

29/ What major battle is pivotal in "Bring the Jubilee" (Novel)?

a/ Gettysburg b/ Hastings c/ Tours d/ Ulundi e/ Waterloo

30/ Tunnel Through the Deeps is to ATTH as No Blade of Grass is to what?

a/ CATS b/ SW c/ TBOF d/ TDOG e/ WWC

31/ The comic in which Dan Dare originally appeared was the idea of whom?

a/ Astronomer b/ Explorer c/ Policeman d/ Politician e/ Vicar

32/ What is the "Maison d'Ailleurs"?

a/ Club b/ Garlic shop c/ House of ill repute d/ Museum e/ Restaurant

33/ Which H G Wells novel was subtitled "A Grotesque Romance"?

a/ TFOTG b/ TIM c/ TIODM d/ TTM e/ WOTW

2012 Nova Awards

Steve Green

Back in 1973, a young Brum Group member called Gillon Field suggested Novacon create an award for the 'best' fanzine of the preceding twelve months (a distinction which would later be defined as "most pleasurable"). Initially, the winner was chosen by a panel of 'wise old fans' (as if), but voting was soon opened up to all qualifying Novacon members and 1981 saw the creation of new categories for fanzine writers and artists.

Sadly, Gillon is no longer with us to know how deeply her idea imbedded itself into the heart of Novacon. The Nova Awards have carried on pretty much unchanged during the past three decades, although eligibility has now extended to electronic fanzines and from last year all fans resident in the UK or Eire have been able to vote, provided they've read at least six of the eligible titles (most of which are available to peruse at *eFanzines.com*). Ballots can even be cast online in the run-up to Novacon, so there really is no excuse for failing to lodge your preference.

You'll find a ballot form in your membership pack; a 'longlist' of known eligible titles appears on the reverse. Just ensure you place it in the Nova Awards box at the registrations desk no later than 23:59 on Saturday. The winners will be announced on at the (non)closing ceremony on Sunday.

(At the time this programme book went to press, the 'longlist' comprised the following fanzines: *All Jacq'd Up*, Nic Farey, Steve Green & Jacqueline Monahan; *Andromeda's Offspring*, Theresa Derwin; *Ansible*, Dave Langford; *Banana Wings*, Claire Brialey & Mark Plummer; *The Banksoniain*, David Haddock; *Beam*, Nic Farey & Jim Mowatt; *Brum Group News*, Rog Peyton for the Birmingham SF Group; *Corflu Memories*, Peter Sullivan; *Data Dump*, Steve Sneyd; *The Drink Tank* (selected issues only), James Bacon & Chris Garcia;

Eat That Duck, Ron Gemmell; *Exhibition Hall*, James Bacon, Chris Garcia & Ariane Wolfe; *The Fortnightly Fix*, Steve Green; *Griff*, Ian Milsted; *Inca*, Rob Jackson; *iShoes*, Yvonne Rowse; *Journey Planet*, James Bacon & Chris Garcia, Pete Young; *A Meara for Observers*, Mike Meara; *Paranoid*, Ian Maule; Pips, Jim Mowatt; *Procrastinations*, John Coxon; *Quantum B*llocks*, Jinnie Cracknell.)

Past Nova Awards Winners

1973: Speculation #32, ed. Peter Weston (best fanzine). [At this point, the award was decided by a panel of "worthy fans"; also nominated were Peter Roberts' Egg #6, Arthur Cruttenden's Idiocy Couchant #2, Ian Maule's Maya #5, Ian Williams' Siddhartha #3, Kevin Smith's Sfinx #7, Dave Sutton's Shadow #19 and Lisa Conesa's Zimri #5. The initial judges were Ken Bulmer, Jim Linwood, Phil Rogers and Tony Walsh; Linwood wrote in C #6 that an open vote "would lead to partisan voting, accusations of undue pressure and ballot rigging, and faneds wanting the award might tend to play to the gallery".]

1974: Zimri #6, ed. Lisa Conesa; Big Scab #2, ed. John Brosnan. [This was the only occasion when the panel opted for a tie. The current rules allow a tie only if the voting patterns are identical.]

1975: Maya #8, ed. Rob Jackson. [This was the final year where the award was made to a specific issue of a fanzine.]

1976: Maya, ed. Rob Jackson.

1977: Twll-Ddu, ed. Dave Langford.

1978: Gross Encounters, ed. Alan Dorey.

1979: Seamonsters, ed. Simone Walsh.

1980: One-Off, ed. Dave Bridges.

1981: Tappen, ed. Malcolm Edwards (best fanzine); Chris Atkinson (new award: best fanzine writer); Pete Lyon (new award: best fanzine artist).

1982: Epsilon, ed. Rob Hansen; Chris Atkinson; Rob Hansen. [This was the first occasion one fan received two Novas in the same year.]

1983: A Cool Head, ed. Dave Bridges; Dave Bridges; Margaret Welbank.

1984: Xyster, ed. Dave Wood; Anne Hammill; D West.

1985: Prevert, ed. John Jarrold; Abi Frost; Ros Calverly.

1986: Pink Fluffy Bedsocks, ed. Owen Whiteoak; Owen Whiteoak; Arthur "ATom" Thomson.

1987: Lip, ed. Hazel Ashworth; D West; D West.

1988: Lip, ed. Hazel Ashworth; Michael Ashley; D West.

1989: VSOP, ed. Jan Orys; Simon Polley; Dave Mooring.

1990: FTT*, ed. Joseph Nicholas, Judith Hanna; Dave Langford; Dave Mooring. [*A polite acronym for Fuck The Tories.]

1991: Saliromania, ed. Michael Ashley; Michael Ashley; D West.

1992: Bob?, ed. Ian Sorensen; Michael Ashley, Dave Mooring.

1993: Lagoon, ed. Simon Ounsley; Simon Ounsley; Dave Mooring.

1994: Rastus Johnson's Cakewalk, ed. Greg Pickersgill; Greg Pickersgill; D West.

1995: Attitude, ed. Michael Abbott, John Dallman and Pam Wells; Simon Ounsley; D West. [Intriguingly, Attitude was intended both as a fanzine and a thematic progress report for the eponymous 1997 convention.]

1996: Banana Wings, ed. Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer; Alison Freebairn; D West. [This year's "best fanzine" began as two separate titles, which merged after their first issues; Waxen Wings & Banana Skins - later contracted to Banana Wings - carried on the numbering and made its debut with #2.]

1997: Banana Wings, ed. Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer; Mark Plummer; Sue Mason.

1998: Banana Wings, ed. Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer; Maureen Kincaid Speller; D West.

1999: Barmaid, ed. Yvonne Rowse; Yvonne Rowse; Sue Mason.

2000: Plokta, ed. Alison Scott, Steve Davies and Mike Scott; Yvonne Rowse; Sue Mason.

2001: Head, ed. Doug Bell and Christina Lake; Alison Freebairn; Dave Hicks.

2002: Plokta, ed. Alison Scott, Steve Davies and Mike Scott; Claire Brialey; Dave Hicks.

2003: Zoo Nation, ed. Pete Young; Claire Brialey; Sue Mason.

2004: Zoo Nation, ed. Pete Young; Claire Brialey; Sue Mason.

2005: Banana Wings, ed. Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer; Claire Brialey; Alison Scott.

2006: Banana Wings, ed. Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer; Claire Brialey; Sue Mason.

2007: Prolapse, ed. Peter Weston; Mark Plummer; Alison Scott. [Peter Weston was also presented with one of the occasional "best fan" Novas, awarded by the Novacon committee.]

2008: Prolapse, ed. Peter Weston; Claire Brialey; Alison Scott.

2009: Banana Wings, ed. Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer; Claire Brialey; Sue Mason.

2010: Journey Planet, ed. James Bacon, Claire Brialey, James Bacon and Chris Garcia (with guest editor Pete Young); Mark Plummer; Arthur "ATom" Thomson. [Chris Garcia and Pete Young were the first non-UK/Irish residents to win a Nova, ATom the first person to be awarded one posthumously.]

2011: Head, edited by Doug Bell & Christina Lake; Claire Brialey; Dave Hicks

The Nova Awards Rules

The Nova Awards celebrate fanzines, fanzine writing and fanzine artwork produced by science fiction fans resident in the UK or Ireland, providing a friendly pat on the back to those whose efforts gave the greatest pleasure to Novacon members during the previous year. They have no vast cosmic significance. Should any difficulties arise in interpreting the rules governing the Nova Awards (henceforth referred to as the Novas), those concerned are urged to follow the course most in keeping with this spirit.

1. The Novas shall be announced at Novacon, the convention organised annually by the Birmingham Science Fiction Group.
2. The categories shall be "Best Fanzine", "Best Fan Writer" and "Best Fan Artist".
3. A trophy shall be supplied in each category by the Novacon committee, for presentation at the awards ceremony on Sunday afternoon.
4. The trophies shall be presented by Novacon's guest(s) of honour (or, if unavailable, by the Novacon committee chair), on behalf of the convention membership.
5. In the event of a tie, the joint recipients shall be asked to share the trophy unless the Novacon committee is willing and able to fund a duplicate trophy.
6. As the Novas are awarded by popular vote, there is no mechanism for eligible editors, writers or artists to withdraw their work or themselves from consideration. A winner determined not to be honoured can always refuse to accept his or her award.
7. In the event that Novacon should not be held in any given year, the Birmingham Science Fiction Group shall be requested to underwrite a ballot in early October of the preceding Novacon's membership, using established criteria and deadlines. Winners shall be notified by e-mail and post, with the full results publicised through fanzines and electronic noticeboards. If the Birmingham Science Fiction Group is willing and able to fund trophies, these shall be presented at the next Eastercon or similarly major event.
8. Should Novacon be cancelled for a second year in succession, the Nova Award Administrator (henceforth referred to as the Administrator) shall meet with the committee of the Birmingham Science Fiction Group to decide as a matter of urgency whether to discontinue the Novas or allow another convention to take over Novacon's role.
9. For the purposes of the Novas, a fanzine shall be defined as an amateur publication concerned with science fiction and / or fantasy, fans of science fiction and / or fantasy, and / or related subjects, copies of which may be obtained in exchange for other such publications or in response to letters of comment. In the event that eligibility is unclear, the decision of the Administrator shall be final.

10. The "Best Fanzine" category shall be open to any fanzine published in the UK or Ireland, provided at least one issue has been published between 1 October of the preceding year and 30 September of the current year. In cases where a fanzine has two or more editors, at least one must be resident in the UK or Ireland.
11. Electronic fanzines ("e-zines") shall be eligible in the "Best Fanzine" category, provided each issue is a distinct entity and a printed copy is available if preferred. A file copy must also be lodged with the Administrator, whose decision on eligibility shall be final.
12. The "Best Fan Writer" category shall be open to anyone resident in the UK or Ireland who has contributed a piece of writing to an eligible fanzine published beween 1 October of the preceding year and 30 September of the current year.
13. The "Best Fan Artist" category shall be open to anyone resident in the UK or Ireland who has contributed a piece of artwork to an eligible fanzine published between 1 October of the preceding year and 30 September of the current year.
14. Voting shall be open to all Novacon members and to any UK / Irish resident, provided he or she has received at least six different fanzines published in the UK or Ireland between 1 October of the preceding year and 30 September of the current year (separate issues of an individual fanzine or various organs of a group / society shall not be considered as different fanzines for the purposes of this total).
15. Ballot forms shall be available on the Novacon website from 1 October each year, to facilitate voting by post or e-mail prior to Novacon. The deadline for postal and electronic votes shall be 23:59 GMT on the Saturday prior to Novacon; the deadline for voting in person shall be 23:59 GMT on the Saturday of Novacon.
16. Only one ballot form shall be accepted from each voter, and votes for themselves or their own fanzines will be disallowed (should a duplicate form be received, it should be clearly marked "Invalid" and exempt from the count).
17. Valid ballots should include the voter's name, address and telephone number, plus the titles of six different fanzines published in the UK or Ireland between 1 October of the preceding year and 30 September of the current year which the voter has received (see point 14).
18. Ballots sent by post or handed in at the convention should be signed. Those sent electronically should emanate from the voter's known e-mail address.
19. Production of ballot forms, organisation of the count and general promotion of the Novas shall be the responsibility of the Administrator, appointed by the preceding year's Novacon committee. The Administrator should have a good basic knowledge of British fanzines.
20. The Administrator shall in turn nominate up to two Novacon members to assist with the count on the Sunday of the convention; again, they should have a wide knowledge of fanzines. During the count, they shall also assist the Administrator with issues of

eligibility and ballot validity. The decision of this group shall be final.
21. First-, second- and third-place votes shall be available in each category. First-place votes shall be allocated three points, second-place votes two points and third-place votes one point.
22. In the event of a tie on points, the Nova in that category shall be awarded to the nominee with most first-place votes. In the event of a tie on first-place votes, the award shall be made to the nominee with most second-place votes. Only in the case of identical voting patterns shall a formal tie be announced.
23. The identity and choices of individual voters, as well as any discussions during the count, shall remain confidential. A complete breakdown of nominees and points received shall be made available to the subsequent Novacon committee for publication in its next available progress report.
24. The Nova Awards ballot form shall comprise a short introduction to the aims of the award and appropriate footnotes on definitions and eligibility, plus space for the voter to identify themselves and indicate their receipt of at least six different fanzines published in the UK or Ireland between 1 October of the preceding year and 30 September of the current year (see point 14).
25. Further, the ballot form shall list the three categories, "Best Fanzine", "Best Fan Writer" and "Best Fan Artist"; in each case, space will be allotted for first-, second- and third-place votes.
26. Finally, if he or she wishes, the Administrator shall include a shortlist of known eligible fanzines, making clear this is intended as an *aide memoire* and is in no sense definitive.
27. Once the winners in all three categories have been decided, the ballot forms and any related notes shall be placed into an envelope and sealed, to be retained by the Administrator for at least three calendar months in the event the results are challenged. If no such query is raised during this period, the envelope and its contents shall be destroyed. Should the results be called into question, the envelope - still sealed - shall be handed over to the chair of the relevant Novacon committee for further investigation.
28. The rules shall be posted on the Novacon website and hardcopies made available for a reasonable fee (covering printing and postage) upon request from the Novacon committee.
29. Any amendments to the above rules shall be made by the current Administrator in conjunction with the committee of that year's Novacon.

March 1978, Dave Langford
Updated: September 1983, Dave Langford
Revised & updated: February 1987, Martin Tudor
Extensively revised & updated: November 2002, Steve Green
Further revised: September 2011, Steve Green

Not long ago we lost a couple of good friends of Novacon, so it's only fitting that we include tributes to them.

My Friend Harry

Rog Peyton

Harry has gone. How do I get my head around that? He's always been around since my early days in fandom.

Harry was Guest of Honour at Brumcon 2 – the 1965 British Eastercon – and I was a novice committee member at only my second convention. I was editing *Vector*, the BSFA's journal, at the time and had already corresponded with him and I'd read *Deathworld* and *The Stainless Steel Rat* in import editions. So when we met he was relatively easy to talk to. We got on well and spent a lot of time in the bar at that con.

We met up again a few months later at the 1965 Worldcon in London and I remember talking to him about his short story "The Streets of Ashkelon" which had been published here in *New Worlds* after being rejected by virtually every American magazine, and inevitably we talked about religion and atheism. I discovered we were both confirmed atheists. "The Streets of Ashkelon" remains one of my all-time favourite short stories.

After that, Harry was back to globetrotting living at various times in Denmark, Italy, America, the UK and Ireland and I don't remember our next meeting. However, after opening my bookshop, Andromeda, in 1971, Harry did several signings after which we'd go for a meal, usually Indian.

At the Brighton Worldcon in 1979, I'd travelled down on the Wednesday, one day early in order to prepare selling at our first Worldcon and in the evening discovered a great Indian restaurant which I told several people about the following day. In the evening I bumped into Harry and he invited me to the bar for a drink as he was meeting a friend there. The friend turned out to be Alfred Bester and after several drinks Harry suggested that the three of us went out for a meal. I told them about the meal I'd had the previous evening and Harry said something

along the lines, "If Rog recommends it, it must be good." When we arrived at the restaurant, it was packed – mainly with fans from the convention. We were fortunate to get a table after only a short wait and we duly ordered our food. The waiter then returned to inform us that they'd run out of rice as they hadn't expected to be busy over a weekend that was usually very quiet. We had to change our order to naan breads and after every future signing he did at Andromeda and I suggested going for an Indian, Harry would say, with that wicked gleam in his eyes, "Do they do rice at this one, Rog?".

Harry was one of the most generous people I've ever met. Several times he invited Arline and I to stay with him over in Ireland which we had to decline because of being unable to leave our dogs. At one time he offered to loan me a large amount of money to help expand Andromeda but again I had to decline his offer as I've always believed that you don't borrow from friends. At his 80th birthday party, I'd travelled down to Brighton and Harry found me a good hotel to stay in after the party. I was very surprised to find that he'd actually paid my hotel bill in advance and he refused to accept anything from me.

A great author, a great friend and someone I will miss very, very much.

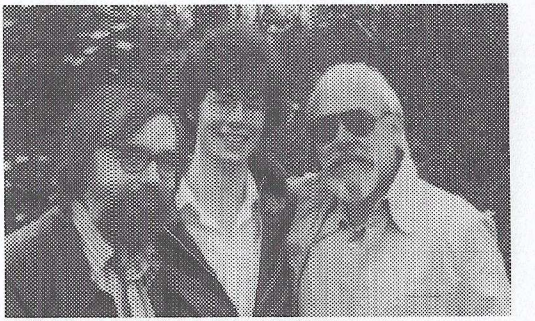
IMAGINE, IF YOU CAN, A YOUNG ...

STEVE LAWSON

Imagine, if you can, a young, very young and skinny, me who had been reading science fiction for as long as I could remember. I knew nothing about fandom, the nearest I had been to it was taking my younger brother to the first Dr Who convention in 1977, a one day event in a church hall in London which was fun, however I was still completely unaware of "proper" conventions.

The next year I heard about the Windsor Science Fiction Festival. Some of you may have been there, if so please let me know as I have very little recollection of the event. However

the main thing I do remember, probably because I have the photograph to prove it, was meeting Harry Harrison and John Sladek. They spent some time talking with me, explaining about Science Fiction and so on. It was fascinating listening to Harry's stories and I remember him making me feel at ease and including me in the conversation and telling me how great fandom was.



It's entirely possible that this encouragement helped me decide to go to Leeds the next Easter for Yorcon 1 and thence to Seacon 79, the rest is history. As I met most of my friends to say nothing of my wife at conventions, I have a lot to thank Harry for.

Dave Cox

Helena Bowles

I knew Dave Cox for nearly thirty years. He was one of those members of fandom who always seemed to be around, even during the time when I was almost gafiated due to the demands of small children. Those children are now almost adults and Dave was a small but regular presence in their whole lives.

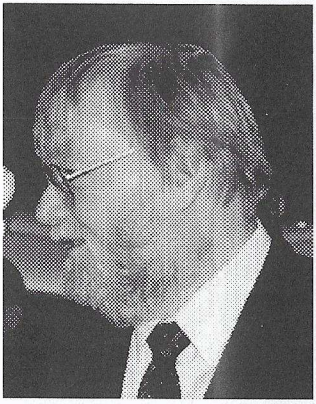
He was a big man when we first met with a great love of good food and drink so it was very difficult for him when he was diagnosed with diabetes in his early fifties. He took responsibility for his condition, lost a great deal of weight and controlled his diabetes with a rare discipline. It is one of life's ironies that despite this massive lifestyle change, his health continued to gradually deteriorate over the next twenty years.

Dave had two great loves in his life - SF and trains. He enjoyed cult TV and was a regular attender at the Portmeirion

conventions organised by Six of One. He possessed an encyclopaedic knowledge of minutiae which he would share with enthusiastic pedantry before being regularly shouted down. He was also one of the kindest, most generous men I knew who never bore a grudge if the shouting was sometimes a little harsh. The BSFG benefited from his membership for many years, as did the informal social group the MiSFiTs where he rarely missed a meeting.

Before his health took a final deterioration, Dave made one final big trip to indulge his other great love. Accompanied by a friend he bought an open rail ticket and travelled across North America by train. He returned delighted with a plethora of blurry photographs taken from train windows. He had a wonderful time and I am very glad he had that as his various physical infirmities began to seriously trouble him not long after his return.

Over his last several months travelling to socialise became very difficult for him and he missed some MiSFiTs meetings. I talked about taking the group to him and would have liked to do that. Sadly the demands of work and a lack of free weekends meant I never managed it and now I never will and that makes me very sad. I hope he knows that we all valued his company even though we certainly let him know when he rambled on too much . Two days before the October meeting he e-mailed to say he had had another blackout and could not attend. He died after a further collapse the next day.



He wanted to leave his body to science and I am happy that it was accepted. He would have been greatly satisfied by that.

The History of Novacon

The first Novacon was organised in 1971 as a one-off event by the Aston University Science Fiction Group, but its success led to the convention being adopted by the neighbouring Birmingham SF Group from 1972 onwards. For the first seven years, the choice of guest of honour alternated between pro authors and leading fans.

In the list below, the figure in brackets relates to membership numbers at the time each programme book went to press, rather than the final attendance. (Note: problems with the printing of Novacon 14's programme book meant an entire month's new members were effectively excluded.)

			GoH	Committee
1971	Novacon (Attendance: 144)	Imperial Centre, Birmingham	James White	Chair: Vernon Brown Committee: Ray Bradbury, Alan Denham, Alan Donnelly, Pauline Dungate
1972	Novacon 2 (144)	Imperial Centre, Birmingham	Doreen Rogers	Chair: Pauline Dungate Committee: Stan Eling, Jeffrey Hacker, Richard Newnham, Meg Palmer, Hazel Reynolds
1973	Novacon 3 (146)	Imperial Centre, Birmingham	Ken Bulmer	Chair: Hazel Reynolds Committee: Stan Eling, Gillon Field, Meg Palmer, Geoff Winterman
1974	Novacon 4 (211)	Imperial Centre, Birmingham	Ken Slater	Chair: Dr Jack Cohen Committee: Pauline Dungate, Stan Eling, Gillon Field, Robert Hoffman, Arline Peyton, Rog Peyton, Hazel Reynolds
1975	Novacon 5 (272)	Royal Angus, Birmingham	Dan Morgan	Chair: Rog Peton Committee: Ray Bradbury, Pauline Dungate, Robert Hoffman, Laurence Miller, Arline Peyton
1976	Novacon 6 (317)	Royal Angus, Birmingham	David Kyle	Chair: Stan Eling Committee: Helen Eling, Laurence Miller, Arline Peyton, Rog Peyton

1977	Novacon 7 (278)	Royal Angus, Birmingham	John Brunner	Chair: Stan Eling Committee: Liese Hoare, Martin Hoare, Ian Maule, Janice Maule, Dave Langford
1978	Novacon 8 (309)	Holiday Inn, Birmingham	Anne McCaffrey	Chair: Laurence Miller Committee: Dave Holmes, Kathy Holmes, Chris Walton, Jackie Wright
1979	Novacon 9 (290)	Royal Angus, Birmingham	Christopher Priest	Chair: Rog Peyton Committee: Helen Eling, Stan Eling, Chris Morgan, Pauline Morgan, Paul Oldroyd
1980	Novacon 10 (495)	Royal Angus, Birmingham	Brian W Aldiss	Chair: Rog Peyton Committee: Joseph Nicholas, Keith Oborn, Krystyna Oborn, Paul Oldroyd, Chris Walton
1981	Novacon 11 (362)	Royal Angus, Birmingham	Bob Shaw	Chair: Paul Oldroyd Committee: Helen Eling, Stan Eling, Joseph Nicholas, Phil Probert
1982	Novacon 12 (373)	Royal Angus, Birmingham	Harry Harrison	Chair: Rog Peyton Committee: Chris Baker, Dave Hardy, Eunice Pearson, Phil Probert
1983	Novacon 13 (339)	Royal Angus, Birmingham	Lisa Tuttle	Chair: Phil Probert Committee: Chris Donaldson, Eunice Pearson, Steve Green, Dave Haden, Jan Huxley, Paul Oldroyd, Paul Vincent, John Wilkes
1984	Novacon 14 (333)	Grand, Birmingham	Robert Holdstock	Chair: Steve Green Committee: Kevin Clarke, Ann Green, Dave Haden, Eunice Pearson, Phil Probert, Martin Tudor, Paul Vincent

1985	Novacon 15 (340)	De Vere, Coventry	James White & Dave Langford	Chair: Phil Probert Committee: Tony Berry, Carol Pearson, Eunice Pearson, Graham Poole, Martin Tudor
1986	Novacon 16 (257)	De Vere, Coventry	EC Tubb & Chris Evans	Chair: Tony Berry Committee: Nick Mills, Darroll Pardoe, Rosemary Pardoe, Graham Poole, Maureen Porter
1987	Novacon 17 (315)	Royal Angus, Birmingham	Iain M Banks	Chair: Bernie Evans Committee: Mick Evans, Dave Hardy, Graham Poole, Stephen Rogers, Geoff Williams
1988	Novacon 18 (336)	Royal Angus, Birmingham	Garry Kilworth	Chair: Tony Berry Committee: Bernie Evans, Rog Peyton, Greg Pickersgill, Linda Pickersgill, Martin Tudor
1989	Novacon 19 (426)	Excelsior, Solihull	Geoff Ryman	Chair: Martin Tudor Committee: Tony Berry, Helena Bowles, Bernie Evans, Nick Mills, Pam Wells
1990	Novacon 20 (330)	Excelsior, Solihull	Dr Jack Cohen	Chair: Bernie Evans Committee: Al Johnston, Alice Lawson, Steve Lawson, Nick Mills, Richard Standage
1991	Novacon 21 (200)	Forte Post House[1], Solihull	Colin Greenland	Chair: Nick Mills Committee: David T Cooper, Bernie Evans, Al Johnston, Alice Lawson, Steve Lawson, Chris Murphy
1992	Novacon 22 (300)	Royal Angus, Birmingham	Storm Constantine	Chair: Helena Bowles Committee: Tony Berry, Bernie Evans, Jenny Glover, Steve Glover, Carol Morton, Richard Standage

1993	Novacon 23 (350)	Royal Angus, Birmingham	Stephen Baxter	Chair: Carol Morton Committee: Helen a Bowles, Bernie Evans, Tony Morton, Richard Standage
1994	Novacon 24 (214)	Royal Angus, Birmingham	Graham Joyce	Chair: Richard Standage Committee: Helena Bowles, Sarah Freakley, Carol Morton, Tony Morton, Chris Murphy, Martin Tudor
1995	Novacon 25 (338)	Chamberlain, Birmingham	Brian W Aldiss, Harry Harrison, Bob Shaw Special guest: Iain M Banks	Chair: Tony Morton Committee: Tony Berry, Carol Morton, Chris Murphy, Richard Standage, Martin Tudor
1996	Novacon 26 (281)	Ibis, Birmingham	David Gemmell	Chair: Carol Morton Committee: Sarah Freakley, Tony Morton, Chris Murphy, Richard Standage, Martin Tudor
1997	Novacon 27 (277)	Abbey, Great Malvern	Peter F Hamilton	Chair: Martin Tudor Committee: Carol & Tony Morton, Chris Murphy, Mike Siddall
1998	Novacon 28 (265)	Britannia, Birmingham	Paul J McAuley	Chair: Martin Tudor Committee: Steve Lawson, Pat McMurray, Carol & Tony Morton, Chris Murphy
1999	Novacon 29 (239)	Britannia, Birmingham	Ian Stewart	hair: Carol Morton Committee: Maureen Kincaid Speller, Steve Lawson, Pat McMurray, Tony Morton, Chris Murphy, Martin Tudor

2000	Novacon 30 (224)	Britannia, Birmingham	Christopher Priest Special Guest: Rog Peyton Guest artist: David A Hardy	Chair: Tony Berry Committee: Maureen Kincaid Speller, Steve Lawson, Pat McMurray, David Cooper, Chris Murphy, Martin Tudor
2001	Novacon 31 (219)	Quality, Walsall	Gwyneth Jones	Chair: Tony Berry Committee: Cat Coast, David Cooper, Dave Hicks, Alice & Steve Lawson, Martin Tudor
2002	Novacon 32 (252)	Quality, Walsall	Ian McDonald	Chair: Martin Tudor Committee: Cat Coast, David Cooper, Steve Green, Dave Hicks, Alice & Steve Lawson
2003	Novacon 33 (203)	Quality, Walsall	Jon Courtenay Grimwood	Chair: Martin Tudor Committee: Cat Coast, Steve Green, Dave Hicks, Alice & Steve Lawson,
2004	Novacon 34 (227)	Quality, Walsall	Ian Watson	Chair: Martin Tudor Committee: Cat Coast, Vicky Cook, Steve & Ann Green, Dave Hicks, Alice & Steve Lawson, Yvonne Rowse
2005	Novacon 35 (216)	Quality, Walsall	Alastair Reynolds	Chair: Tony Berry Committee: Helena Bowles, Cat Coast, Vicky Cook, Alice & Steve Lawson, Yvonne Rowse
2006	Novacon 36 (245)	Quality, Walsall	Ken MacLeod	Chair: Tony Berry Committee: Helena Bowles, Vicky Cook, Dave Hicks, Alice & Steve Lawson
2007	Novacon 37 (227)	Quality, Walsall	Charles Stross	Chair: Steve Green Committee: Kevin Clarke, Vicky Cook, Ann Green, Alice & Steve Lawson

2008	Novacon 38 (206)	Quality, Walsall	Ian R MacLeod	Chair: Helena Bowles Committee: Tony Berry, Alice & Steve Lawson, Richard Standage
2009	Novacon 39 (210)	Park Inn, Nottingham	Justina Robson	Chair: Alice Lawson Committee: Tony Berry, Helena Bowles, Cat Coast, Dave Hicks, Steve Lawson, Richard Standage, Martin Tudor
2010	Novacon 40 (300)[2]	Park Inn, Nottingham	Iain M Banks Special Guest: Brian W Aldiss	Chair: Vernon Brown Committee: Tony Berry, Helena Bowles, Cat Coast, Dave Hicks, Alice & Steve Lawson, Richard Standage
2011	Novacon 41 (236)	Park Inn, Nottingham	John Meaney	Chair: Steve Lawson Committee: Tony Berry, Helena Bowles, Cat Coast, Alice Lawson, Richard Standage, Eve & John Harvey

1. The Excelsior changed its name to the Forte Post House.
2. Number corrected from last year's Programme Book

Novacon 42 Membership

(232 as at 30th October 2012)

1	Jaine Fenn	144	Doug Bell
2	Dave Weddell	41	Alan Bellingham
28	½r	124	Austin Benson
31	Michael Abbott	196	Meike Benzler
166	Michael Ainsley	8	Tony Berry
165	Graham Ainsley	156	John Bilton
6	Brian Aldiss	9	Helena Bowles
88	Meriol Ameringen	168	Simon Bradshaw
87	Brian Ameringen	72	Claire Brialey
161	Chris Amies	192	Chris Brooks
115	Jim Anderson	105	Ian Brown
141	Tina Anghelatos	26	Vernon Brown
109	Margaret Austin	27	Pat Brown
22	Simon Baldin	150	Alison Buck
5	Iain M Banks	142	Peter Buck
17	Barbara-Jane	129	Charlotte Bulmer
172	Allen Baum	61	Jonathan Cain
140	Jacey Bedford	60	Marianne Cain

59	Steven Cain
62	David Carlile
218	Michael Casajuana
10	Cat Coast
202	Eddie Cochrane
177	Noel Collyer
223	Jane Cooper
224	Matthew Cooper
133	Steve Cooper
225	Libby Cooper
222	Dave Cooper
49	Dave Cox
145	John Coxon
100	Margaret Croad
106	Helen Cross
228	Peter Crump
20	Julia Daly
89	Michael Davidson
90	Christine Davidson
107	Steve Davies
30	Malcolm Davies
181	Robert Day
108	Giulia De Cesare
197	Jim De Liscard
43	Simon Dearn
111	Theresa Derwin
85	Paul Dormer
220	Fran Dowd
221	John Dowd
127	Stephen Dunn
128	Roger Earnshaw
110	Martin Easterbrook
182	Cathryn Easthope
57	Sue Edwards
84	Janet Edwards
83	John Edwards
212	Samantha Fennell
153	Anna Feruglio Dal Dan
188	Deborah Fishburn
94	Flick
149	Mike French
96	Gwen Funnell
78	Ron Gemmell
205	Angela Goodfellow
155	Carol Goodwin
65	Niall Gordon
112	Steve Green
148	Susan Griffiths
136	David Haddock
19	Dave Hardy
189	Colin Harris
194	Moira Harrison
7	Harry Harrison
139	Peter Harrow
116	Fiona Harvey
12	John Harvey
11	Eve Harvey
56	Julian Headlong
206	Julian Heathcock
118	Penny Hicks
117	Dave Hicks
38	Martin Hoare
25	Dave Holmes
23	Dave Hutchinson
24	Bogna Hutchinson
204	Malcolm Hutchinson
104	Rob Jackson
186	Edward James
119	Andy Jenkins
120	Janet Jenkins
36	Al Johnston
229	Steve Jones
39	Sue Jones
184	Kari
47	Tim Kirk
143	Christina Lake
37	Dave Lally
97	Dave Langford
13	Steve Lawson
200	Alice Lawson
219	Alexey Locktianov
33	Peter Mabey
135	Dave Mansfield
169	Siân Martin
34	Rory McLean
152	Alex McLintock
231	Pat McMurray
232	Julie McMurray
3	John Meaney
4	Yvonne Meaney
91	Pat Meara
92	Michael Meara
187	Mark Meenan
185	Farah Mendlesohn
64	Chris Morgan
63	Pauline Morgan
159	Ian Morley
131	John Mottershead
123	Carrie Mowatt
122	Jim Mowatt

86	Caroline Mullan
176	Chris Murphy
126	Anthony Naggs
183	Phil Nanson
207	Carol Naylor
180	Hazel Newman
179	Robert Newman
82	James Odell
158	June O'Donnell
157	John O'Donnell
51	Omega
121	Morag O'Neill
130	Charles Partington
233	Ben Pattison
68	Andrew Patton
52	Hal Payne
53	Jodie Payne
50	Harry Payne
71	Mali Perera
175	John Peters
162	Heather Petty
114	Rog Peyton
102	Catherine Pickersgill
101	Greg Pickersgill
160	Louise Plester
73	Mark Plummer
167	Pete Randall
40	Colette Reap
210	JFW Richards
211	MJS Richards
42	Roger Robinson
98	Tony Rogers
171	Steve Rogerson
193	Angela Rosin
201	Nigel Rowe
174	Marcus Rowland
15	Yvonne Rowse
230	Sally Rowse
154	Edwin Rydberg
190	Ian Sales
58	Alison Scott
16	Mike Scott
134	Jamie Scott
93	Harpal Singh
191	Mark Slater
44	Martin Smart
45	Melica Smith
35	Robert Smith
170	James E Snelling
227	Alan Snowdon
54	Adrian Snowdon
226	Tom Snowdon
29	Kate Solomon
55	Ian Sorensen
103	Douglas Spencer
14	Richard Standage
209	Magdalen Standage-Bowles
208	Danesh Standage-Bowles
18	Tim Stannard
203	Richard Stephenson
76	Chris Stocks
164	Alex Storer
77	Neil Summerfield
198	James Sumner
151	Colin Tate
215	Cathie Taylor
214	Melissa Taylor
213	Aaron Taylor
216	Martyn Taylor
79	George Ternent
80	Linda Ternent
81	Calvin Ternent
69	Markus Thierstein
99	David Thomas
132	Sue Thomason
74	Neil Tomkinson
75	Alison Tomkinson
48	Dave Tompkins
113	Heloise Tudor
163	Sandra Unerman
217	Tobes Valois
199	Leucha Veneer
46	Jim Walker
95	Peter Wareham
70	Gerry Webb
137	Alan Webb
147	Ian Whates
173	Donna White
138	Peter Wilkinson
21	Bridget Wilkinson
32	Anne Wilson
125	Caro Wilson
146	Ellie Winpenny
67	Alan Woodford
66	Anne Woodford
195	Mark Woods
178	Diane Young

Novacon 42
Committee and Organisers

"We name the guilty parties"

Chairman and Hotel:	Tony Berry
Memberships:	Steve Lawson
Treasurer:	Eve Harvey
Secretary:	Cat Coast
Programme:	Yvonne Rowse & Dave Hicks
Social Media	Richard Standage & Helena Bowles
Publications & Website:	John Harvey
Publicity:	Steve Green
Art Show:	Serena Culfeather
Dave Lally Extravaganser	Dave Lally
Tech Ops	Martin Hoare
Logistics	Al Johnston

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LONCON 3

The 72nd World Science Fiction Convention

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Malcolm Edwards Chris Foss
Jeanne Gomoll Robin Hobb
Bryan Talbot

26+ £95 16-25 £65 6-15 £30 0-5 £2

Family £230 Supporting £25

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